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Reconstruction
in the South
1868-1878

ADDRESS

OF THE

HON. GEORGE C. H. KERNION

AT THE

SIXTIETH ANNIVERSARY CELEBRATION

OF THE

FOURTEENTH OF SEPTEMBER, 1874

DURING THE

MEMORIAL SERVICES

HELD AT THE

FOOT OF CANAL STREET

SEPTEMBER 14TH, 1934

Compliments
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S. A. Trufant
New Orleans

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KERNION, GEORGE CAMPBELL HUCHET DE.

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Address of the Hon. George C.H.Kernion at the
sixtieth anniversary celebration of the fourteenth
of September, 1874, during the memorial services
held at the foot of Canal street, September 14th,
1934. [New Orleans, La.?1934]

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Heroes, of ever honored memory, who made the supreme sacrifice, September 14th, 1874:

A. M. GAUTIER	E. A. TOLEDANO	F. M. MOHRMANN
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A. BOSONIER	JAMES CROSSIN	J. M. WEST
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S. B. NEWMAN, JR.	MICHAEL BETZ	J. K. GOURDAIN
	ADRIEN FEUILLAN	

SEPTEMBER 14TH, 1874

Mr. Chairman, Ladies and Gentlemen:

We stand tonight on hallowed ground and are gathered together on this 14th day of September to once more pay proper tribute to the memory of those heroes who, on another 14th day of September in the year 1874, rose, as true and loyal citizens, to supernal heights, and, by their deeds, their courage and their invincible faith in the cause they had espoused, made themselves worthy of the everlasting bays of Immortality which a grateful and emancipated people forthwith placed upon their brows.

Living in a republic founded by men who laughed at Death and challenged its destroying power to the utmost whenever their liberty was at stake, our heroes of 1874 were not unmindful of the fact that through the sacrifices, the blood and the heroism of our Nation's Founders, a republic was established by them that should not be allowed to perish for the reason that it represented, under the wise provisions of its Constitution, the highest form of civilization that the brain of man could possibly conceive and fashion.

When the battle of September 14, 1874 took place, the afflicted people of Louisiana had lost all but their lives, their conscience and their honor. But they took their lives in their hands, seeking nothing but freedom, and they toiled and fought, bled and died on this very spot to snatch from the hands of Fate and Destiny the freedom they believed was theirs by the grace of God! Tonight we honor them once more for their dauntless courage, for their high sense of duty, for their trust in God that cast out all thoughts of fear from their souls, and for their raging thirst of liberty that enabled them to surmount what, to men of less heroic mould, would have appeared insurmountable obstacles.

And thus, as long as the people of Louisiana continue to love courage and duty, as long as they cherish liberty and justice, they will never tire of hearing the praises of those fighting men of 1874, or of heaping fresh laurels upon their monument.

During the War between the States, the sons of Louisiana had stood or fallen as bravely as other Southerners on every bloody battlefield in Dixieland. But New Orleans, their metropolitan city, once the second in importance in the whole country and the pride of the Southland, had felt, in spite of their sacrifices, the heel of the Oppressor upon her neck while the Civil War still raged, and had, later on, during the Reconstruction Period, been ravaged and tortured by a small army of camp followers, known as Carpet Baggers, that followed in the wake of the Union troops. Former slaves now posed as the Political masters of the proud white citizenry of the South! Odious laws were passed to make the yoke of our people more galling and to deprive them even of their right of suffrage. Political bandits looted our Public Treasury with impunity. An insolent Metropolitan Police threatened our men, our women and children. Elections had become a farce in the land. Military authority had largely superseded Civil authority. Freedom of speech and of the Press, guaranteed to every citizen of these United States by our Federal Constitution, had become a thing of the past. The right of peaceful assembly and the right to bear arms, also guaranteed by that same immortal document, were no longer recognized by the Power-Mad and despicable black-and-tan Neros and their white satellites that sat in our Legislative Halls or controlled our Executive Mansion and our Courts of Justice supported by Federal bayonets.

The stench of the political corruption arose to the very heavens and Ruin, Disgrace and shameful Bondage surrounded our long-suffering people on every side. When the fateful year 1874 dawned on the darkened horizon of Louisiana, it found a people who had once basked in the sunlight of happiness, peace and prosperity, shackled hand and foot and in the absolute power and control of Reptiles whose souls were filled with naught but avarice, greed, terrorism, revenge and degrading desires and whose one principal object was to drain our State's life-blood to its very last drop so as to line their capacious pockets with pilfered gold. At such a juncture, to our people's

despair, even the ear of the Federal Government had become deaf to their pleas and their supplications for help and redress of unbearable wrongs. President Grant had refused in 1872 to receive a Committee of 200 prominent citizens.

Yet, in spite of it all, the men of 1874, in Louisiana, were cast in heroic moulds. Like Spartans, they endured their sufferings in silence, whilst quietly mustering their forces to strike a decisive blow upon their tormentors at an opportune time. One and all of them had made in their hearts a solemn covenant with their God that some day they would take up arms to drive away from their midst the shameless bandits that were preying upon them, like blood-thirsty hyenas.

Thank God, my friends, that on September 14, 1874, there were Men—real Red-Blooded Men, in Louisiana—Men unafraid even of Death when their Honor and their Freedom were at stake! And on that fateful day they struck—struck with the ferocity of Lions at Bay—advanced, like Avenging Angels clad in impenetrable steel, upon those Carpet Baggers and Scalawags, backed by the Metropolitan Police and Federal Bayonets, that stood ready to destroy them—rushed, like a Tidal Wave, into the very mouths of cannon that belched forth leaden death and of muskets that rattled with sinister intensity—and they were successful in dislodging their enemies from their strongholds and in driving them pell-mell from a gory battlefield. On every side, like frightened sheep, the Carpet Baggers scattered, leaving their dead, their dying and their wounded in their wake. Patriotism, valor and justice had triumphed over despotism, iniquity and lawlessness. A despondent and down-trodden people at once became the happiest in Christendom and with pride and exultation witnessed the beginning of the end of a cursed regime that had for so long desecrated and profaned a free American State!

We can well imagine with what feelings of gratitude, of love and respect the people hailed the tired heroes of that bloody struggle after the din of the battle was over. For those men of 1874 had struck a Death Blow at Tyranny not only in Louisiana but throughout the South as well.

It behooves us, therefore, if we are to prove ourselves worthy of our fellowmen who fought on this very spot on Sep-

tember 14, 1874, if we have caught the inspiration of their glowing deeds performed on that occasion, to take up the burden which they have thrown upon our shoulders of preserving the Liberty they finally procured for us at the cost of their sufferings, their blood and their very lives, and to safeguard it at all price, even though, in so doing, some of us may have to sleep as some of them did that day, upon a glorious field!

- The men of 1874 were an example for the oppressed and a lesson to oppressors! Their feelings have been fittingly expressed by some eloquent American orator when he stated that "to fight for liberty is indeed a privilege." The men of 1874 were also true Democrats and as such they believed in equal and exact justice to all men. They also believed in the preservation of our General Government in its whole Constitutional vigor. Their creed had as one of its tenets the duty of guarding with jealous care the untrammelled right of election by the people of those who were to represent or to govern them. They also held, as part of their dogma, the necessity of absolute acquiescence in the decisions of the majority. They also believed, as a fundamental principle of a republican form of government, in the supremacy of the Civil over the Military authority. They frowned upon waste in public expenditures and were ready to die in order that the freedom of religion, of the press and of the person might never be abridged by any tyrant and usurper. The war between North and South was a thing of the past, and they believed in the preservation of our Federal Government. With them Liberty walked hand in hand with Justice and they held that the greater public morality became, the greater would be their individual liberty!

And those men who fought that historic fight on September 14, 1874—merchants and professional men, clerks, artisans and laborers, young in years or grey-haired sires, many of whom had worn with honor the uniforms of a Lost Cause and had fought under Robert E. Lee, Johnson, Beauregard, Stonewall Jackson and other gallant Southern generals, are now forever immortal for they possessed that real greatness that proceeds, not from titles or exalted birth, but from the soul of man. If once they had hailed as their own the Flag of the Confederacy, their loyalty to the reunited Union was now sincere, for in furling forever their standards displaying the Stars and Bars, they had also furled and buried with them

for all time to come their former differences. Even in the heat of the battle of September 14, 1874, they showed their respect for the Federal Government and their unwillingness to commit any act that might be construed as an aggression against Federal authority, by abstaining from attacking the Custom House, over which the Stars and Stripes floated in the breeze, though it harbored, besides the United States troops quartered there, many of their hated enemies and oppressors who had sought refuge therein. They held the American flag in deepest reverence as it represented for them the spirit of 1776 that actuated their revolutionary sires, and was for them an emblem of Liberty!

The ten-year Reconstruction Period was a blot upon the glorious history of our free country, but out of the commonplace drapery that enveloped it, out of the thick folds of its sordidness and horror, there broke a flash of splendor and power in the armed uprising of those men of 1874 against entrenched tyranny, corruption, public thievery and terrorism. One and all of them, in that revolution, displayed the spirit and dash of that olden valor for which the paladins of Charlemagne are still renowned!

I shall not attempt to give you a detailed story of the events that reached a climax on that fateful 14th day of September in the year 1874. It would be too long and the time to do so is lacking. To explain it fully I would have to revert to the years 1872 and 1873 and earlier ones, replete with interesting and historic events. What, however, is really essential for me to state is that since the year 1868, the people of Louisiana had been dominated by a horde of unprincipled villains, known as Carpet Baggers belonging, be it said to our eternal shame, to the white race, but possessed of hearts blacker than the blackest of the ignorant negroes with whom those shameless men associated and fraternized for the sake of plunder and self-aggrandisement. These Carpet Baggers maintained themselves in power by means of the most astounding frauds ever perpetrated upon a free people in the annals of the World up to that time.

The Republican, or Federalist, party then sat in Washington. Louisiana and the rest of the Southern States, after the surrender of Lee's army to Grant at Appomattox, were living

under a Civil Government controlled by Carpet Baggers and supported by Federal Bayonets. The wounds of the conflict between North and South had not yet been healed completely and old rancors and prejudices still dwelt in the hearts of many of those living North of the Mason and Dixon Line toward the former Soldiers of the South. Thus Federal power, with ill-advised and misguided zeal, protected with bayonets the political vampires that fattened on the life blood of our people.

Encouraged by such protection and help, the usurping despots added insult to injury. In 1872 matters seemed to have reached a climax when, in spite of the fact that John McEnery, candidate of the Democratic Party for governor of this state, had carried Louisiana by a majority of 8,000 votes and a majority of both Houses of our State Legislature had been honestly elected to office by the White people as the official returns testified, the fruits of this victory of honest men over scalawags were stolen from them by a Federal injunction obtained from a degenerate judge, which injunction denied admittance to the State House of the Democratic Governor and the legislators duly elected by the White people of the State.

Forthwith a fraudulent Legislature and a fraudulent State Government were foisted upon the people of our State by their oppressors, and with the help of Federal bayonets, this rape of the ballot was put into full effect. Incensed at such an outrage, but powerless to undo the wrong at once, the men of New Orleans and of Louisiana, appealed to the Government in Washington, but denied an audience, with proud and unconquerable spirit, began to gird their loins for action. Up to then they had borne with patience the frauds, usurpations and tyranny of their despoilers. But the time for forbearance had passed. Justice, Right and Principle must prevail once more in Louisiana, and to put an end to abuse and tyranny, they resolved to use every human effort, to fight to the very last ditch and to Conquer or Die! Henceforth their watchword became: "Give us Liberty or give us Death!" Their minds and hearts were centered on the sole object of becoming free men once more. Their Carpet Bag masters were protected by disreputable Federal judges and Federal Bayonets. What cared they for that ill-smelling Metropolitan Police that stood

ready with club and rifle, to carry out the orders of the tyrants? Unterrified they stood before William Pitt Kellogg, the usurping governor, and his negro henchman, Antoine, the usurping lieutenant-governor, who had arrogated to themselves the right of absolute dictators and the privilege of abolishing existing courts and judges and of establishing others presided over by their minions. The fact that a servile Legislature, inducted into office by fraud, and kept in line by bribery and open corruption, had passed outrageous laws centralizing in the Governor every form of political control, did not intimidate the Freeborn Man—the Real Red-Blooded Men of Louisiana at that time. In their souls they knew that such a government as that under which they presently lived, that held its existence, not by the consent of the governed, but at the dictation from Washington, backed by Federal Bayonets, could not long survive in a free republic!

They secretly revolted over the consciousness that that provision of the Federal Constitution that guaranteed to every state in the Union a republican form of government had become *a hollow myth in Louisiana*, which was then nothing else than a semi-military dictatorship, within which free and untrammelled suffrage, civil authority, the liberties of the people and the sanctity of the courts had been utterly destroyed.

The men of 1874 flung the gauntlet of their defiance at the police force of New Orleans which, though maintained at the expense of that city's taxpayers, had been converted by Kellogg and his gang of ruffians, into an armed brigade of State Militia, or rather of bullies and oppressors, to carry out the orders of the Carpet-Bagger Governor that sat in the State House with his corrupt and villainous Legislature.

The courageous people of Louisiana submitted for a while to outrageous public expenditures that increased the burden of taxation until it became confiscatory. They also bore up as well as they could under the dictates of a Chief Executive that enjoyed a degree of usurped power scarcely exercised by any sovereign in the world.

The theft of our State gubernatorial election of 1872, which was also a national one, became the turning point in

the Reconstruction Saturnalia then prevailing in our state. A committee of 200 of our most respected citizens having gone to our National Capitol, appealed to President Grant, and sought in vain for emancipation from a bondage that was worse than death. *Nothing remained but to prepare at once for the inevitable armed struggle.*

Weapons were secretly purchased early in 1874 by an enraged citizenry. If some of them were seized by the Metropolitan Police, a large number of such consignments, smuggled in in disguise as shipments of machinery, found a safe resting place in the old Leeds Foundry on the corner of Constance and Delord Streets. In the dead of the night, determined men visited that old foundry and left with weapons skillfully hidden, which they carried to their own homes. Companies were organized as early as January, 1874 and drilled secretly in Cotton Presses, far from prying eyes. More weapons were expected early in September by the White League, as the Secret organization was styled. The steamer Mississippi, that carried arms, reached New Orleans on September 12, 1874. Kellogg, the Carpet Bag Governor, knew of its arrival and the nature of its cargo. His Metropolitan Police in large force, with loaded guns and cannon pointed, prevented all access to the steamer and removal of the arms by those to whom they rightfully belonged.

Apprised of Kellogg's moves, the organized forces, White League and Angell's Battalion, decided to act in a decisive manner and without further delay.

On Sunday, September 13, 1874, when the city of New Orleans awoke, its walls and fences were placarded with posters calling upon the people to assemble the next day at 11:00 A. M. at the Clay Statute on Canal Street neutral ground, at St. Charles Street, and "in tones loud enough to be heard throughout the length and breadth of the land, declare that you are, of right ought to be and mean to be free."

This strong appeal, drafted by the late Dr. J. Dickson Bruns, one of New Orleans best known and most highly respected citizens, was subscribed by forty-two of the city's leading men, and ten of the most representative business firms in the city.

This appeal had an instantaneous effect. It acted like an electric spark in a powder magazine. Men literally sprang to arms. The various companies of the White League which had been organizing all summer under able officers prepared to move forward. The officers were—for the most part seasoned veterans who had fought with the gray-clad armies and had received long since their baptism of fire—Anglo-Americans and Franco-Americans, or Creoles, who considered a rendezvous with Death, when the voice of Duty called, with less apprehension and concern than an ordinary business rendezvous!

When Lieutenant-Governor Davidson B. Penn, Chief Executive during the temporary absence in Vicksburg, Miss., of Governor-Elect John McEnery, reached Clay Statute on Canal Street at 11 A. M. on September 14, 1874, he found thousands of grim-faced citizens already assembled there. No time was lost. The stirring voice of Judge Robert H. Marr began to read a set of resolutions. The crowd listened in intense and impressive silence. Those resolutions demanding the immediate abdication of the usurping governor, Wm. Pitt Kellogg, were unanimously adopted. A committee of five was named to deliver them to the tyrant. The crowd awaited their return. Returning, the committee reported that they had been unable to see Kellogg for the reason that he had fled from the State House (formerly the Hotel Royal) and had hidden for safety in the U. S. Customhouse. They had delivered the people's ultimatum to one of his henchmen, Judge Dibble, who had refused in his master's name to comply with the demand. Cries of rage rose on all sides and the words "Hang Kellogg" issued from a thousand throats. The mass meeting heard more stirring oratory that caused the hearts of the crowd to palpitate with wild emotion. The assembled multitude knew that the crucial hour had come at last when with the sledge hammers of their manly courage, they were to be given at last a chance to batter down the iron doors of that hateful political bondage that had held them and all those dear to them as unwilling Serfs for the past many years! The thought of being free again inspired them with renewed courage, and when Judge Marr requested them to disperse quietly and return to their homes but to come back to Clay Statute at 2:30 P. M. that very afternoon, *prepared for action*, they dispersed in silence, their souls filled with

stern determination, and reported to their respective organized bodies.

In the meanwhile Lieutenant-Governor Penn appointed General Fred N. Ogden, a gallant ex-Confederate officer who had won his spurs at the siege of Vicksburg, as Major General, giving him full military command over the White League, Angell's Battalion, and all other organized troops which were immediately sworn in as State Militia. General Ogden appreciated his tremendous responsibility and in the battle that followed, he proved himself sublime. His burning eye betokened courage and martial ardor and everything about him was suggestive of forceful endeavor. He was an inspiration for those who served under him. Going to meet danger and never avoiding it, he was in the thickest of the fray, and though he was numbered among the wounded and had his horse killed under him, as soon as he had regained consciousness, after being knocked senseless by falling from the saddle to the pavement, he was astride another charger, leading his men with flashing sword to the onslaught. He shook like a strong oak in the whirlwind of his passionate vengeance, but in spite of the intensity of his emotion, he never lost his head for even a second. He was always the master of the situation and his intrepidity urged his men to accomplish their great achievement. Be it said to his eternal praise that he showed good generalship not only by his wise plans for the battle but also by his complete control of his forces during and after the engagement. History chronicles the fact that there was no looting or other unmilitary conduct displayed by any of Ogden's Militia on that memorable epoch!

At the State House on Royal Street, were said some 3,000 negro men of the militia under General Barber (Black as the Ace of Spades). In the Cabildo perhaps 800 heavily armed members of the hated Metropolitan Police awaited marching orders. In Orleans Alley, alongside of the old St. Louis Cathedral, 30 mounted policemen, or Uhlans, bestrode their impatient horses and were ready to charge. A dozen more armed mercenaries defended the Arsenal on St. Peter Street. In the Custom House, 150 soldiers of the U. S. Regular Army rested on their loaded rifles. Excited negroes, by the hundreds, crowded therein and in the State House for protection. The Carpet Baggers had placed a battery of artillery in Jackson

Square and General Longstreet, of the State Militia, who was in supreme command of Kellogg's forces, had charge of it. To drive back the White Leaguers, he had several Napoleon and Gatling guns ready to vomit death upon them when they appeared.

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Soon the enemy's forces began to take their final positions for the approaching combat. General Longstreet, formerly one of General Lee's chief lieutenants, had come to New Orleans and entered the cotton business. To the bitter disappointment of his former associates, he finally "sold his birthright for a mess of pottage," accepting an appointment from the usurping governor, Kellogg, as major-general of the state militia, which placed him in chief command, on the 14th of September, 1874.

At about 3 A. M. General Longstreet ordered the Metropolitan Police, numbering from six to eight hundred, to move up from the Cabildo through Chartres and Royal Streets to Canal Street.

General Badger, in command of the Metropolitans moved about three hundred of the police to the head of Canal Street, taking position on the levee in front of the Mobile Depot, right resting on the Iron Building, where they unlimbered two Napoleon and Gatling guns, supported by a large force of infantry, armed with improved Springfield rifles.

General Behan, commanding the White League, armed with old Belgian rifles, assembled on Poydras Street, river front to Camp, Behan ordered Company E, Captain Pleasants, to move out across the levee and deploy behind the freight on the wharves, about opposite Gravier Street.

Battery C, Captain John Glynn, and Lieutenant Guibet, with only one field piece, took position on the levee in front of the Morgan Line Depot, head of Poydras Street, supported by Companies A and B, White League, right resting on Delta Street. Company C at Front Street and Company D at Fulton Street.

At about 4:15 P. M., General Badger ordered the Metropolitans to open fire with their Gatling and Napoleon guns. Company E from the wharf picked off the gunners as fast as

they stepped up to the cannon, which so demoralized the Badger troops, that they wavered and broke in disorder. Immediately, Captain Glynn and Lieutenant Guibet ordered their men to charge. Captain Vaudry, with Company A and Captain Lord with Company B filed out from Poydras Street, and with a rebel yell, stormed the Metropolitans Batteries.

The Metropolitans, having broken in wild disorder, General Badger was unable to rally his troops, who fled down Canal Street to seek shelter in the United States Custom House.

The Metropolitans had one Company, with one Napoleon in reserve in front of the Custom House which they were endeavoring to operate, but very soon they deserted their cannon and fled to the State House.

General Badger fell from his horse with three wounds. Captain Buck, Company C, White League, charged down Front Street and Company G, Captain Kilpatrick, charged down Fulton Street, just in time to greatly discomfort the retreating police.

Captain Kilpatrick, discovering Badger on the ground badly wounded, went to his rescue, standing over him with drawn sword and threatening to kill any man who attempted to disturb him. This splendid act no doubt saved General Badger's life.

By this time, the Metropolitans having realized that bayonets, rifles and cannons cannot drive back a maddened people bent on achieving its freedom, fell back toward Jackson Square where a battery of artillery was planted to protect them.

At this juncture, having driven back the enemy all along his lines, and having met with a measure of success that was beyond their fondest dreams, the White League heroes began to tenderly gather up their dead and their wounded and returned to Poydras Street, their line of defense, where they slept on their arms all night, with a large picket line on Canal Street. Sixteen of their valiant brothers-in-arms had made the supreme sacrifice on the altar of Liberty and forty-three

others had received honorable wounds. Kellogg's defeated minions counted eleven killed and sixty wounded as a result of the encounter.

The next day, September 15th, amidst general rejoicing, Angell's Regiment, and Coleman's artillery advanced upon the State House and captured it without opposition—the 3,000 negro militia having disappeared. At the same time Captain McGloin's company moved forward and took possession of Jackson Square and the Arsenal without firing a shot.

And thus a miracle had been accomplished in less than twenty-four hours by a body of determined well-organized men, with nothing but Duty and the desire of Freedom to lead them on, who had proven victorious on all sides against a well-armed and well-organized body of Metropolitan Police and 3,000 State colored troops.

President Grant who had maintained U. S. troops in every Southern State to support the Semi-Civil Governments once said: "In this great Modern Republic of ours—the home of a cosmopolitan race, may those who seek the blessings of its free institution and the protection of its flag remember the obligation they impose."

Louisiana was a free State for only four days—its people were very happy over the restoration of White Supremacy. Their joy was brief for General Grant, as President of the United States, immediately ordered General Emory, commanding the Southern Division, to proceed immediately to New Orleans with sufficient force to reinstate the Kellogg State Government in Louisiana. General Emory arrived September 18th, 1874 and Governor McEnery immediately turned over the City and State to him. General Emory recognized that no force was necessary. The people of Louisiana respected the Flag and acquiesced in the unfair tyrannical decision of the U. S. Government without demure for two years more of Carpet Bag rule. Louisiana had overthrown by arms a usurpation begot by fraud and maintained by force.

There were more killed and wounded on September 14th, 1874, than at the Battle of New Orleans, January 8th, 1812, and the import was greater. For the result was the awakening

of the good people north of the Mason and Dixon Line to a realization of the oppression—the Tyranny—the political slavery which had been forced upon the Southern people for eight years with the U. S. Army camped on our soil in every state to maintain the Carpet Bagger and the negro in their nefarious depredations upon our people.

This was evidenced in the Election of November, 1876, when Tilden and Hendricks, Democratic Presidential candidates, were elected over Hayes and Wheeler, Republicans. However, through corrupt returning Boards, the Republicans stole the presidential vote of Louisiana, South Carolina and Florida, and seated Hayes. The Republicans however, did not dare to interfere with the inauguration of the Democratic Governments of Louisiana, South Carolina and Florida and the *restoration of the White Supremacy*.

SO WE FINALLY FOREVER RE-ESTABLISHED
WHITE SUPREMACY IN THE SOUTHERN STATES
IN 1877.

And now that sixty years have rolled into the Ocean of Eternity since the day when those men of 1874 inscribed their names in imperishable characters upon the scrolls of History, Fame and Immortality, we become more and more conscious of what they accomplished for us, and for that reason we ask, or should ask ourselves what we, in return, can do for the state and the city they loved even unto death.

Not merely the heroes whose names are chiselled on this granite shaft that stands before us, have gone to their reward and eternal rest, but all the others who participated in that epochal battle, with a few exceptions, have long since been gathered to the bosom of their Maker. Yet those heroes are not really dead. Their spirits still dwell among us and as I stand upon this platform tonight and gaze over this vast crowd, at the surrounding territory where they fought for liberty, principle and justice with the strength of Titans, it seems as if, I can see, with my mind's eye the scene of blood and carnage in which they took so conspicuous and brilliant a part. I seem to hear the commands of their leaders, the tramp of their advancing footsteps and their voices vibrant with daring and hope. And hovering over us their phantom

faces seem to be looking down intently upon each and every one of us, and searching our inmost souls to find out if their sacrifice has not been made in vain, if we love liberty as dearly as they did, and if we will ever allow the Torch of Freedom which they kindled and held aloft on September 14, 1874, to ever become extinguished!

We have freedom, it is true, under our flag, but that freedom demands eternal Vigilance. For there can be no real freedom without public honesty and as Wendell Phillips has truthfully written: "You may build your Capitol of granite and pile it as high as the Rocky Mountains, if it is founded on or mixed up with iniquity, the pulse of a girl will eventually beat it down"! Public spirit, watchfulness and participation of all good citizens, in an active manner, in public affairs are necessary if America is to work out her own salvation in these present dangerous times. *We have the Demagogue always with us.*

Our Government is a government "of the people, by the people, for the people," and though the multitude may sometimes be supine and careless and fail to understand the responsibilities that attach to the name of American citizen and the enjoyment of political freedom, sooner or later Public Conscience awakens in all its strength and crushes without pity wicked laws and base combinations under its feet. Then it remembers that under our Declaration of Independence "all men are created equal; that they are endowed by their Creator with certain inalienable rights, and that among these rights are life, liberty, and the pursuit of happiness."

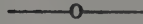
I thank you.

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OF
LIBERTY PLACE

appointed by the

HONORABLE T. SEMMES WALMSLEY, MAYOR

pursuant to Ordinance No. 13820 of the Commission Council of
the City of New Orleans.



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